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Assistance With Wildlife Damage Problems in Nebraska

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Nebraskans who experience damage and nuisance problems with wildlife can get assistance from several public and private organizations. This NebFact describes the most direct route to the solution of your problem. A reference guide (*Table I*) lists who to contact for information, materials, permits, and hands-on assistance.

Wildlife play an important role in our environment. In addition, we gain many recreational, economic, and aesthetic benefits from them. Unfortunately, the activities of wildlife occasionally conflict with human interests in personal property, agricultural production, and health and safety. The most common wildlife damage and nuisance problems in Nebraska are caused by bats, beaver, coyotes, deer, house mice, house sparrows, moles, Norway rats, pocket gophers, prairie dogs, rabbits, pigeons, starlings, snakes, and tree squirrels. Landowners often tolerate some damage by wildlife and many are able to control wildlife damage on their own. Programs are available, however, that provide information, materials, or on-site assistance to people when problems intensify.

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, through its educators, specialists, and assistants can provide a wide range of information on managing wildlife damage. NebGuides are available at local extension offices or online at (<http://ianrwww.unl.edu/pubs/wildlife>) for many of the species of wildlife that cause problems in Nebraska. Details are provided on life histories and methods for recognizing, preventing, and controlling damage. The comprehensive reference

book, *Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage* can be obtained through your local extension educator. Contact your local extension office or the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management (<http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu>) for more information. The United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS) assists farmers, ranchers, residents, industries, organizations, and agencies in protecting agriculture, property, natural resources, and human health and safety from damage or threats posed by wildlife. On-site expertise or hands-on assistance are provided on request by wildlife specialists that are available in several areas across Nebraska (*Figure 1*). Information, equipment, and materials are also available from Wildlife Services that enable many people to resolve conflicts with wildlife on their own. Wildlife Services provides a wide range of services, and their efforts have focused on reducing predation on livestock; beaver damage to crops, timber, and roadways; bird-aircraft collisions at civilian and military airports; and the risk of wildlife-borne diseases such as rabies, West Nile virus, and plague.

The Web site for the national program is at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws>. The primary responsibility of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) is to manage and preserve wildlife and their habitat throughout the state. The NGPC provides information, limited materials, and emergency on-site assistance for damage caused by game and nongame species. Contact the district office of the NGPC nearest you for information or access them online at <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us>. The NGPC can provide publications, current technical information, and a list of cooperating private trappers that can assist with wildlife damage problems. They may also provide materials to exclude some animals or, where other damage control methods fail, issue permits to trap or shoot some species.

Municipal organizations such as Animal Control or Humane Societies are available in the vicinity of Aurora, Columbus, Fremont, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, McCook, Norfolk, Omaha, Grand Island, North Platte, Scottsbluff, and other communities. They regularly provide advice on how to deal with problem wildlife and in some cases will provide or rent traps and assist in trapping and relocating animals such as opossum, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, or bats that are associated with dwellings. All occasions in which wild animals bite humans, pets, or livestock should be reported and offending animals tested for rabies. Contact your local office of animal control, humane society, or health and human services for more information. Animal control offices in smaller communities are usually located in local police departments.

Private pest management professionals provide products and services for managing problem wildlife. Most pest management professionals charge fees to assess and resolve wildlife damage and nuisance problems, especially with bats, house mice, house sparrows, moles, Norway rats, opossums, pigeons, raccoons, starlings and tree squirrels. They are available in Nebraska, primarily in urban areas, and may be listed in your local yellow pages under "Animal Pests" or "Pest Control Services." Finally, cooperating trappers (CTs) are willing to assist with problem furbearers. The names of these individuals can be obtained from the NGPC or the Nebraska Furharvesters Association.

Table I. A quick guide to sources of information (I), materials (M), permits (P), and hands-on assistance (A) for wildlife damage management in Nebraska.

<i>Species</i>	<i>UNCE</i> ¹	<i>WS</i> ²	<i>NGPC</i> ³	<i>AC/HS</i> ⁴	<i>PMPs</i> ⁵	<i>CT</i> ⁶
Predators						
badgers	I	IA	I	IA		IA
bobcats	I	IA	I			IA
coyotes	I	IAM	I	IAM		IA
foxes	I	IAM	I	IAM		IA
opossums	I	IA	I	IAM	IA	IA
raccoons	I	IA	I	IAM	IA	IA
skunks	I	IAM	I	IAM	IA	IA
weasels	I	IAM	I			IA
Small mammals						
bats	I	IA	I	IAM	IAM	
beaver	I	IAM	IP	IM	IA	IA
house mice	I	IA		IM	IAM	
moles	I	IA	I		IAM	
muskrats	I	IAM	IP	IM	IA	IA
Norway rats	I	IAM		IM	IAM	
pocket gophers	I	IAM	I		IAM	
prairie dogs	I	IAM	I		IAM	
rabbits	I	I	I	IM	IAM	
tree squirrels	I	I	I	IAM	IAM	
Big game						
deer	I		IMP	IA		
elk	I		IM			
pronghorn	I		IM			
Birds						
blackbirds	I	IA	I	IM		
crows	I	IA	I	IM		
ducks & geese	I	IA	IAM	IA	IAM	
fish-eating	I	IAM	I			
house sparrows	I	IA	I		IAM	
hawks & owls	I	IA	I	IA		
pigeons	I	IA	I	IM	IAM	
starlings	I	IA	I	IM	IAM	
wild turkeys	I		IAM	IA		

¹ University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension (UNCE) Extension Educators are located throughout Nebraska, often in offices associated with county courthouses or government buildings.

Extension Specialist-Wildlife Damage (402) 472-6822

² United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services (WS):

State Director: Lincoln (402) 434-2340

Wildlife Disease Management Specialist: (402) 434-2340

Wildlife Specialists: Creston (402) 285-0906

Chadron (308) 432-2799

Culbertson (308) 286-3335

Gordon (308) 282-0763

Gothenburg (308) 537-4217

Grant (308) 352-4275

Mason City (308) 732-3217

Nelson (402) 225-2253

Sidney (308) 254-7168

Wilcox (308) 478-5312

Other areas (402) 225-7301

³ Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC)

Wildlife Division Main Office: Lincoln (402) 471-5410

District Offices: Alliance (308) 763-2940

Bassett (402) 684-2921

Kearney (308) 865-5310

Lincoln (402) 471-5415

Norfolk (402) 370-3374

North Platte (308) 535-8025

Omaha (402) 595-2144

⁴ Animal Control (AC) / Humane Society (HS)

Aurora HS (402) 694-2738

Columbus A (402) 562-7325

Fremont HS (402) 721-3282

Grand Island HS (308) 385-5305

Hastings AC (402) 461-2307

Kearney AC (308) 237-2104

Lincoln AC (402) 441-7900

Lincoln HS (402) 441-4488

McCook HS (308) 345-2372

Norfolk AC (402) 644-8700

Omaha area HS (402) 444-7800

Scottsbluff HS (308) 635-0922

Related Publications

[Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management](#)

[University of Nebraska--Lincoln Extension Wildlife Management Publications](#)

[USDA APHIS Wildlife Services](#)

[Nebraska Game and Parks Commission](#)

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